

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An enhanced low-bit rate parametric voice coder that groups a number of frames from an underlying frame-based vocoder, such as MELP, into a superframe structure. Parameters are extracted from the group of underlying frames and quantized into the superframe which allows the bit rate of the underlying coding to be reduced without increasing the distortion. The speech data coded in the superframe structure can then be directly synthesized to speech or may be transcoded to a format so that an underlying frame-based vocoder performs the synthesis. The superframe structure includes additional error detection and correction data to reduce the distortion caused by the communication of bit errors.

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